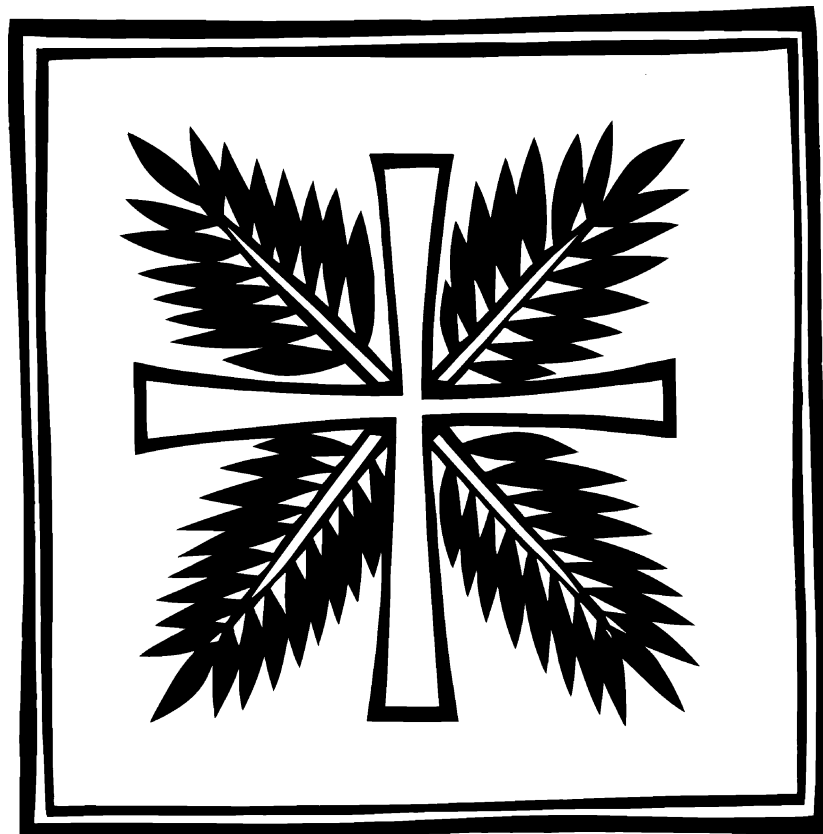


# Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church-E.L.C.A.



This week, the center of the church's year, is one of striking contrasts: Jesus rides into Jerusalem surrounded by shouts of glory, only to be left alone to die on the cross, abandoned by even his closest friends. Mark's gospel presents Jesus in his complete human vulnerability: agitated, grieved, scared, forsaken. Though we lament Christ's suffering and all human suffering, we also expect God's salvation: in the wine and bread, Jesus promises that his death will mark a new covenant with all people. We enter this holy week thirsty for the completion of God's astonishing work.

## Palm Sunday Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Gustaf Adolf Lutheran Church—E.L.C.A.

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Ministers:

*You, All Members of G.A.*

Intern Pastor:

**Jaime Decker**

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Prelude Music

Welcome/Announcements

## Gathering

\*Confessions and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins*

### Call To Worship

L: The story of faith is a story of courage.

**C: It took courage for John the Baptist to prepare the way.**

L: It took courage for Mary to say, "Here I am. Use me."

**C: It took courage for the disciples to drop their nets and follow Jesus.**

L: It took courage for the paralyzed man's friends to lower him through the roof.

**C: It took courage for Peter to walk on water.**

L: It took courage for Zacchaeus to give half of his possessions to the poor.

**C: It took courage for Jesus to enter Jerusalem on a donkey.**

L: Faith has never been easy. It is a journey of courage.

**C: Again and again, God, show us the way.**

L: Let us worship a brave and courageous God.

### Call To Confession

L: Glennon Doyle,<sup>1</sup> a famous author and writer, frequently uses the phrase, "We can do hard things." It's one of her many mottos in life. As a result, this declaration, "We can do hard things," Has become an anthem for so many. You can buy these words on poster prints, on greeting cards, and even on coffee mugs. These five simple words aren't particularly radical, So when I stop to think about why they have caught hold for so many, I can only assume that it is because life and faith require courage. Vulnerability requires courage. Relationships require courage. Advocacy and justice require courage. Facing our privilege requires courage. Faith requires courage. Even confession requires courage. So friends, let us do hard things. Let us confess together, trusting that God is always there, Cheering us on, in every courageous act. Let us pray. . .

### Prayer of Confession

L: God of palm branches and hallelujahs: **C: We confess—we love a good Palm Sunday celebration. We love the sound of a joyful parade. We love shouting, "hallelujah!" We love that Palm Sunday means Easter is just around the corner. We love good news. However, if we slow down and pay attention, We know that Palm Sunday was not a walk in the park for you. There was risk. There was fear. There was the threat of violence. You were leading a peaceful protest against an unjust empire, And the whole world knew it. Forgive us for glossing over the courage this day took. Remind us that the story of faith is a story of courage, And even we can do hard things. With hope we pray. Amen.**

## Words of Forgiveness

L: Family of faith, Even when we gloss over the truth, Even when our courage fails us, Even when we doubt that we can do hard things, God believes in us. God loves us. God forgives us.

Hear and believe this truth:

**C: We are known. We are loved. We are forgiven. Again and again and again. Amen.**

## Gathering Hymn

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Verse 1&2

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring. You are the king of Israel and David's royal Son, now in the Lord's name coming, our King and blessed One. All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring. The company of angels are praising you on high; creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring.

## \*Prayer For Illumination

L: If we could buy our way closer to you, we'd sell everything we have. If we could work our way to you, we'd never take a day off. If we could walk our way to you, we'd keep our tennis shoes on tight. But I know—we know—we cannot buy, or work, or walk our way closer to you. We must listen our way closer to you. So holy God, as you have so often done again and again, Open our ears. Clear out the self-talk that keeps us from you. Dust out the negativity and distractions. Remove any doubt hindering our way. **C: Amen.**

## Word

### First Reading

**Isaiah 50:4-9**

The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens, wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. <sup>5</sup> The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. <sup>6</sup> I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. <sup>7</sup> The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; <sup>8</sup> he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. <sup>9</sup> It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. R: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

### Psalm

**(Please Read Responsively)**

**Psalm 31:9-16**

<sup>9</sup> Have mercy on me, O LORD, for I am in trouble; my eye is consumed with sorrow, and also my throat and my belly.

<sup>10</sup> **For my life is wasted with grief, and my years with sighing; my strength fails me because of affliction, and my bones are consumed.**

<sup>11</sup> I am the scorn of all my enemies, a disgrace to my neighbors, a dismay to my acquaintances; when they see me in the street they avoid me.

<sup>12</sup> **Like the dead I am forgotten, out of mind; I am as useless as a broken pot.**

<sup>13</sup> For I have heard the whispering of the crowd; fear is all around; they put their heads together against me; they plot to take my life.

<sup>14</sup> **But as for me, I have trusted in you, O LORD. I have said, "You are my God.**

<sup>15</sup> My times are in your hand; rescue me from the hand of my enemies, and from those who persecute me.

<sup>16</sup> **Let your face shine upon your servant; save me in your steadfast love."**

R: Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

## **Second Reading**

## **Philippians 2:5-11**

<sup>5</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, <sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

R: The Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Reading**

## **John 12:1-19**

P: The Holy Gospel according to \_\_\_\_\_

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>2</sup> There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. <sup>3</sup> Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. <sup>4</sup> But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, <sup>5</sup> "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) <sup>7</sup> Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." <sup>9</sup> When the great crowd of the Jews learned that he was there, they came not only because of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. <sup>10</sup> So the chief priests planned to put Lazarus to death as well, <sup>11</sup> since it was on account of him that many of the Jews were deserting and were believing in Jesus. <sup>12</sup> The next day the great crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus was coming to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> So they took branches of palm trees and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord—the King of Israel!" <sup>14</sup> Jesus found a young donkey and sat on it; as it is written: <sup>15</sup> "Do not be afraid, daughter of Zion. Look, your king is coming, sitting on a donkey's colt!" <sup>16</sup> His disciples did not understand these things at first; but when Jesus was glorified, then they remembered that these things had been written of him and had been done to him. <sup>17</sup> So the crowd that had been with him when he called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead continued to testify. <sup>18</sup> It was also because they heard that he had performed this sign that the crowd went to meet him. <sup>19</sup> The Pharisees then said to one another, "You see, you can do nothing. Look, the world has gone after him!"

P: The Gospel of our Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## Message

Hymn of the Day

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Verse 3&4

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosanas ring. The multitude of angels are praising you on high; creation and all mortals in chorus make reply. All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosanas ring. To you, before your passion, they sang their hymns of praise. To you, now high exalted, our melody we raise. All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosanas ring.

\*Affirmation of Faith

**I refuse to believe that I am powerless. I refuse to believe that injustice and hatred are simply**

**the way it has to be. I refuse to believe that I am better or more deserving than my neighbor. I refuse to believe that my self-worth is rooted in my accomplishments or appearance. I refuse to believe that the Church is dying, because I see God all around me. I refuse to believe that the traditions of old are the only path for moving forward. I refuse to believe that I cannot make a difference. So with hope in my heart, I will strive to live a life of courage, conviction, and compassion, Just as Jesus taught us. Amen.**

\*Prayers of Intercession    **Response: Your Mercy Is Great**

Offering (Offering Plates are in the back of the Sanctuary, please drop offering there)

\* Offering Prayer

**C: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **Meal**

Holy Communion

\*Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you, **C: and also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts, **C: we lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

\*Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosana in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the highest, hosana in the highest.

\*Words of Institution

\*Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

\*Invitation to Communion

P: Jesus draws the whole world to himself. Come to this meal and be fed.

\*Lamb of God

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you suffered death our lives to save: have mercy now we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; you set us free from guilt and grave: have mercy now, we pray.

O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world away; eternal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Communion Distribution (All Are Welcome to Receive Communion Here at GA Church)

\*Post Communion Blessing

\* Post Communion Prayer

P: God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

### Sending

#### \*Benediction

As you leave this space, May your mouth speak of God’s goodness. May your arms hold those in need. May your feet walk toward justice. May your heart trust its worth. May your soul dance in God’s grace. And may this be your rhythm— Again and again and again, Until God’s promised day. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself, Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace. **Amen**

\*Sending Hymn

*All Glory, Laud, and Honor*

Verse 5

All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosanas ring. Their praises you accepted; accept the prayers we bring, great author of all goodness, O God and gracious King. All glory, laud, and honor to you, redeemer king, to whom the lips of children made sweet hosanas ring.

\*Dismissal

P: Go in Peace. Share the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*Postlude

Bulletin Donated: Happy 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday Natalie!

Mission Statement of Gustaf Lutheran Church

(Adopted in 1984)

Our congregation wishes to achieve unity of living guided by the word of God and encouraged by rural community spirit.

Our goals include:

1. The education of both young and old to carry out the Proclamation of God's Word and for all human kind through worship and witness.
2. Mutual social occasions, loving and caring for all human beings and reaching out to others with justice and peace.
3. Responsible stewardship of human material resources.

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We celebrate weekly Holy Communion. We welcome all who believe in the Risen Christ and who find in the sacrament our Lord’s real presence for the forgiveness of sins and the renewal of life. If you receive communion in your home congregation, you are invited to receive it here at G.A. Red wine and white grape juice will be offered to you in Christ’s name. You may choose your

preference. If you are unable to receive wheat bread, or wine, be sure that in a single element you receive the Presence and all the gifts of the sacrament.

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